

**AT A GLANCE**

International Women's Day (March 8) is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating women's equality.

IWD has occurred for well over a century, with the first IWD gathering in 1911 supported by over a million people. Today, IWD belongs to all groups collectively everywhere. IWD is not country, group or organization specific.

#IWD2022 #BreakTheBias

Source:  
(<https://www.internationalwomensday.com/>)



**Esther Ofei-Aboagye (PhD), Board Chairperson**

**GENDER EQUALITY TODAY FOR A SUSTAINABLE TOMORROW**

On the occasion of International Women's Day (IWD) 2022, we salute all those who are working to promote gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow. We join people all around the world to draw attention to the social, economic, cultural and political circumstances of women and urge collective as well as individual action to correct biases and unequal and inequitable situations.

From our perspective, a gender equitable approach to a nation's health care is critical to ensuring that "no one is indeed left behind". Every Ghanaian at all stages of life, irrespective of their socio-economic status, ethnic group, religion or indeed any other factor, must have affordable, high quality, accessible and dignified health care as a basic right. That is why effective and efficient primary health care is so important to us at the Alliance for Reproductive Health Rights (ARHR). The Alliance and its partners support the adoption of a gender lens to the efforts at health systems strengthening and health financing. We also would like to see strong political will and commitment to implementing health policies and actions.

To achieve the benefits that equitable, accessible and inclusive health services should deliver, we have to consider the other socio-economic and cultural factors that place limits on accessing health care, particularly for women and children. These include the calls on their time and resources, including their under-valued care work. Provisions for maternal health care especially at the community and sub-district levels, including adequate and dedicated spaces, delivery beds and other facilities are urgent requirements. Attention to women's mental health, susceptibility to gender-based violence and stereotypes should engage our attention as well, if we are to achieve a world free of bias and discrimination.

We thank all our partners and those who have supported us in this quest and look forward to working together to achieving the world we want – one that is equitable and inclusive; and in which differences are valued and celebrated.